

PATENT
IBM Docket No. RAL920000082US1

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A shared Digital Subscriber Line (shared DSL) modem for connecting a plurality of Digital Subscriber Lines (DSLs) connected to individual client modems to a source of digital signals intended for the individual client modems comprising:

first means responsive to the source of digital signals for generating a first physical frame for an intended recipient client modem, said frame including a control ~~channel~~ field for indicating which of the plurality of client modems connected via a DSL to the shared DSL modem is the intended recipient of the frame and ~~the~~ a data field in the frame;

second means responsive to signals from the first means for generating a second physical frame identical to the first physical frame less the data field intended for the client modem identified in the control ~~channel~~ field; and,

third means responsive to signals from the second means for ~~contemporaneously~~ transmitting the first physical frame over the DSL connected to the client modem identified in the control channel and transmitting the second physical frame to all of the other client modems.

2. (Currently Amended) The shared DSL modem set forth in claim 1, in which the third means includes:

a selector responsive to ~~the~~ a control signal provided by the second means for directing the first physical frame from the first means to the DSL connected to the client modem identified in the control field and directing the second physical frame from the second means to all of the other DSLs.

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3. (Currently Amended) The shared DSL modem set forth in claim 2 in which the third means includes for each DSL:

a transmission filter, a digital-to-analog converter and a line driver connected in series with either the transmission filter or the digital-to-analog converter connected to the selector.

4. (Currently Amended) The shared DSL modem set forth in claim 2 in which the third means includes:

a first and second transmission filter between the selector means and the first and second means, respectively;

a line driver means for each DSL; and,

an overlap addition means and digital-to-analog converter means connected between each line driver and the selector means.

5. (Currently Amended) The shared DSL modem set forth in claim 2 in which the third means includes:

a first and second digital-to-analog converter between the selector ~~means~~ and the first and second means, respectively;

a line driver means for each DSL; and,

transmission filter means connected between each line driver and the selector means.

6. (Original) A shared DSL modem as set forth in any one of claims 1-5 in which the second physical frame includes a low power signal.

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7. (Original) A shared Digital Subscriber Line (shared DSL) modem for connecting a plurality of Digital Subscriber Lines (DSLs) connected to individual client modems to a source of digital signals intended for the individual client modems comprising:

first means responsive to the source of digital signals for generating a first physical frame for an intended recipient client modem including a control field identifying which of the plurality of client modems connected via a DSL to the shared DSL modem is the intended recipient of the frame and a data field;

second means responsive to the first means for preparing the first physical frame for transmission over a DSL;

third means responsive to the first means for generating a second physical frame which includes at least a control field identical to the control field in the first physical frame;

fourth means responsive to the third means for preparing the second physical frame for transmission over a DSL; and,

fifth means responsive to the second and fourth means for contemporaneously transmitting the prepared first physical frame from the second means over the DSL connected to the client modem identified in the control channel and transmitting the prepared second physical frame from the fourth means to all of the other client modems.

8. (Original) The shared DSL modem set forth in claim 7 in which the fifth means includes:

a selector responsive to the control field provided by the third means for directing the first physical frame from the second means to the DSL connected to the client modem identified in the control field and directing the second physical frame from the fourth means to all of the other DSLs.

9. (Currently Amended) The shared DSL modem set forth in claim 8 in which the fifth means includes for each DSL:

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a transmission filter, a digital-to-analog converter and a line driver connected in series with either the transmission filter or the digital-to-analog converter connected to the selector.

10. (Currently Amended) The shared DSL modem set forth in claim 8 in which the fifth means includes:

a first and second transmission filter between the selector means and the second and fourth means, respectively;

a line driver means for each DSL; and,

an overlap addition means and digital-to-analog converter means connected between each line driver and the selector means.

11. (Currently Amended) The shared DSL modem set forth in claim 8 in which the fifth means includes:

a first and second digital-to-analog converter between the selector means and the second and fourth means, respectively;

a line driver means for each DSL; and,

a transmission filter means connected between each line driver and the selector means.

12. (Original) A shared DSL modem as set forth in any one of claims 7-11 in which the second physical frame includes low power signal components.

13. (Currently Amended) In a shared Digital Subscriber Line (shared DSL) modem, a method for connecting a plurality of Digital Subscriber Lines (DSLs) connected to individual client modems to a source of digital signals intended for the individual client modems comprising the steps:

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generating a first physical frame for an intended recipient client modem including a control ~~channel~~ indicating which of the plurality of client modems connected via a DSL to the shared DSL modem is the intended recipient of the frame and a data field;

generating a second physical frame identical to the first physical frame less the data field intended for the client modem identified in the control field ~~channel~~; and,

~~contemporaneously~~ transmitting the first physical frame over the DSL connected to the client modem identified in the control ~~channel~~ field and transmitting the second physical frame to all of the other client modems.

14. (Original) The method set forth in claim 13 in which a low power synchronization signal component is included in the generated second physical frame.

15. (New) The shared DSL modem of claim 1 wherein the third means includes a switch.

16. (New) The shared DSL modem of claim 1 wherein the third means includes a multiplexer.